



Saguaro National Park News Release

12-32

For Immediate Release

May 16, 2012

Contact: Natalie Luna Rose at (520) 733-8602

SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK TO HOST OPEN HOUSE IN HONOR OF ARMED FORCES DAY ON MAY 19

Active Duty U.S. Military Offered Free Entrance Passes to All National Parks

Tucson, AZ – To show appreciation for those who serve in the U.S. Military, on Saturday, May 19, Armed Forces Day, the National Park Service will begin issuing an [annual pass](#) offering free entrance to all 397 national parks for active duty military members and their dependents.

Saguaro National Park will have an open house from 9:00am to 5:00pm at the Rincon Mountain District (East) visitor center, 3693 S. Old Spanish Trail, where members of the Armed Forces and their families can come and visit the park, enjoy interpretative programs and obtain their pass.

Active duty members of the U.S. Military and their dependents can pick up their passes at both districts of the park, at the Rincon Mountain District and the Red Hills Visitor Center. They must show a current, valid military identification card to obtain their pass. More information is available at www.nps.gov/findapark/passes.htm.

This military version of the America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass also permits free entrance to sites managed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the U.S. Forest Service. The pass is also available at these locations.

“We are proud to recognize these brave men and women and hope that a visit to this or any national park will offer an opportunity to unwind, relax, rejuvenate, and just have fun with their families,” said Superintendent Darla Sidles. “This new pass is a way to thank military members and their families for their service and their sacrifices.”

National parks and the military have strong ties going back to the establishment of Yellowstone as the world’s first national park in 1872. The U.S. Cavalry watched over America’s national parks and did double duty, serving as the first park rangers until the National Park Service was created 44 years later. During World War II, many parks were set aside for the training and care of military personnel. Today, dozens of national parks commemorate military battles and achievements.

About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America’s 397 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov.

-NPS-